



Photo by Jeff Salmore



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ELEVATING EQUITY: Investing in Inclusive Communities

What is the *Elevating Equity Initiative*?

Elevating Equity is LISC DC's \$50 million commitment to provide loans, grants, equity, in-kind services, and technical assistance to nonprofits undertaking projects, programs, and activities that help long-term residents and newcomers – regardless of their income – live, work, and thrive in the neighborhoods adjacent to the future 11th Street Bridge Park.

This initiative is at the heart of LISC DC's mission: to help neighborhood residents create healthy and sustainable places of choice and opportunity – good places to live, work, raise children, and conduct business. It is a comprehensive effort to help foster equity, inclusiveness, and an improved quality of life for low-income households in the 11th Street Bridge Park Impact Area.



Expanding investment in the production and preservation of affordable housing

Supporting healthy environments and lifestyles



Increasing family income and wealth



Improving access to quality education



Stimulating economic development



What is the 11th Street Bridge Park?

The old 11th Street traffic bridges that connect Washington, D.C.'s Capitol Hill and historic Anacostia neighborhoods have been replaced. One part of the old infrastructure is being converted to the elevated 11th Street Bridge Park, a new venue for healthy recreation, environmental education, and the arts. The 11th Street Bridge Park will be a place unlike any other in Washington, D.C. – one that supports the community's physical, environmental, cultural, and economic health. For more information, visit www.bridgepark.org.



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What is the Bridge Park Impact Area?

The Bridge Park Impact Area consists of the neighborhoods located within a one-mile radius of the future site of the 11th Street Bridge Park. These neighborhoods include Anacostia, Fairlawn, Hillside, Capitol Hill, and the Navy Yard.

How will LISC DC implement *Elevating Equity*?

LISC DC will work through its nonprofit partners to invest in viable, feasible projects and initiatives that are being developed and implemented in the respective neighborhoods. We will vet the nonprofits and provide resources that will help them build and sustain their capacity. Our resources will be used to create and/or preserve:

- Housing that is affordable to existing and new residents; and
- Facilities that will meet the needs of low-income residents (e.g. health care, early learning, adult education, food and nutrition, senior services, services for youth, and the arts).

How did LISC DC get involved with the 11th Street Bridge Park?

LISC DC first started working with Scott Kratz, the Executive Director of the 11th Street Bridge Park, in 2013. Since then, LISC DC's partnership with the 11th Street Bridge Park team has evolved. Initially, LISC DC provided a small grant to help them get started.

Over the course of 2015, however, LISC DC provided extensive technical support in the form of project management and data analysis as a part of the Equitable Development Task Force. The 11th Street Bridge Park team held meetings and work sessions with neighborhood residents, policy experts, government officials, and business owners. This led to the creation of the 11th Street Bridge Park [Equitable Development Plan \(EDP\)](#).

Elevating Equity is LISC DC's commitment to helping implement the recommendations in the EDP.

Does the launch of *Elevating Equity* mean that LISC DC will only focus on development near the Bridge Park?

No! LISC DC will continue to invest in and support communities and nonprofit partners throughout the District of Columbia.

How can I get involved?

LISC DC is seeking additional partners to leverage its \$50 million commitment. This includes philanthropic and corporate support in the form of low-interest loans, grants, and in-kind services. Contact a member of the LISC DC team (<http://www.liscdc.org/our-team/>) for more info.

Other ways to get involved include:

- Following us on Twitter at @LISC_DC;
- Retweeting updates about the initiative; and
- Sharing the initiative with others.